

We only need to look to the commercial radio industry for extensive evidence of the deleterious effect of relaxed ownership rules: massive consolidation, limited consumer choice, and almost complete loss of local/independent voices. With the exception of the few companies that have benefited financially from the lifting of restrictions on station ownership, I hear virtually no one suggest that commercial radio is better today than it was five years ago. In fact, most industry experts (and many consumers) say it is much, much worse.

The need for media ownership restrictions is even greater now that consumers have so many new types of media to choose from- unchecked, large media interests will simply gobble up these new means of communication, limiting consumer choice and stifling the free discourse that is vital to a functioning democracy.

This decision is one that could fundamentally alter the media landscape, as previous decisions similar to it have done in the limited (but still important) sphere of radio. It should be made in full view of the public, with far greater consideration than it has been given thus far.

We need restrictions on media ownership to protect the public interest, and we need an FCC that welcomes and encourages the participation of the public from which it draws its authority.